



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

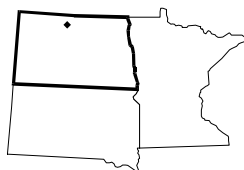
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Turtle Mountain Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The Turtle Mountain Community College's assessment pilot partner is the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the 15,000 enrolled Tribal members residing in Rolette County, which is the Turtle Mountain Reservation's resident county and is located in north-central North Dakota. Tribal unemployment on the reservation is 57 percent. The Tribe and county applied for USDA designation as a Rural Enterprise Community in 1998. Although unsuccessful, the application process resulted in creation of a 10-year strategic plan for the area and designation as a Champion Community. The U.S. Department of Commerce has classified the area as an Underutilized Business Zone.

The Tribe's Brownfields Assessment Pilot is targeting the abandoned San Haven facility, a former State mental rehabilitation hospital bought by the Tribe in 1992. The Tribe is planning to assess the property for contaminants and redevelop the site into a tourism office and natural history park. The Tribe is in the process of leveraging funds from several sources to cleanup and redevelop the site, which would stimulate

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Belcourt, North
Dakota*

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train low-income or very-low-income participants as environmental technicians and provide continuing career support for three years to graduates. Students will be recruited from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, who are actively pursuing cleanup and redevelopment of reservation properties to alleviate the Tribe's 57 percent unemployment rate.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:
[http://www.epa.gov/region08/land_waste/bfhome/
bfhome.html](http://www.epa.gov/region08/land_waste/bfhome/bfhome.html)

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

the local economy and gain back the 200 jobs lost when the facility was closed. These sources include a \$350,000 Imminent Threat Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$400,000 from an Indian Community Development Block Grant, and redevelopment planning funds from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to the San Haven property, Tribal landfills, vacant buildings, and unregulated open garbage pits present risks of hazardous material contamination. There are no other job training programs for hazardous materials handling in the area. The Job Training Pilot would enable tribal members to gain livable wage employment in environmentally related jobs.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The Turtle Mountain Community College plans to train low-income or very-low-income Tribal participants, achieve a 100 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for three years after the training is completed. The Pilot training program will consist of one year of prerequisite courses required by the North Central College Accreditation Standards for certificate programs, followed by one year of environmental technician training, including OSHA 40-hour health and safety, lead and asbestos abatement, hazardous materials handling, and training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The Turtle Mountain Community College's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, North Dakota Job Service, Tribal Work Experience Program, Turtle Mountain New Jobs Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, HUD, and Tribal Job Training Partnership Act Program. The Tribal Employee Rights Ordinance (TERO) requires environmental contractors to hire local individuals. The Tribe and Roulette county are working together to reapply for a federal Enterprise Community/Empowerment Zone designation.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income or very-low-income Tribal members;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for three years after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.